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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
PRESS CONFERENCE OPENING STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 6, 1997

Good afternoon. Before I begin, I want to say that I join with the American people in expressing our condolences for the victims of the terrible plane crash yesterday in Guam. I want to commend the hundreds of volunteers and U.S. military personnel who are working on the response and rescue effort. The National Transportation Safety Board will lead the investigation of this crash, with technical assistance from the FAA and other agencies as needed.

Today, I want to briefly review what our nation has accomplished during the first seven months of this year. And I want to spell out the opportunity – and the obligation – that we have to continue our progress.

Our mission, as I have said, is to prepare our people for the 21st Century – to master the challenges and seize the opportunities of this new time. I believe that the American people are coming to see that as we pass through this period of rapid change, the future holds far greater rewards than risks. But first we must make sure that our people, our government, and our institutions are ready for the new time – that we have built a government not for yesterday, but for tomorrow.

These past months have been a remarkably fruitful time for bipartisan action in the national interests. We have ensured that this unprecedented period of peace and prosperity has not been wasted. We have acted. We ratified the Chemical Weapons Treaty – a landmark international agreement that will protect our soldiers and our citizens from the threat of poison gas. We reached agreement in Madrid to open the doors of NATO to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, while creating a stronger partnership with Russia to ensure a Europe that is undivided, democratic and at peace. And we worked in ^{joint} ~~a bipartisan fashion~~ to maintain normal trade treatment for China, and by doing so, strengthened our engagement with one-quarter of the world's population.

These are big accomplishments, all achieved with strong bipartisan support. They have strengthened our nation and gone a long way towards preparing us for the 21st century. But big challenges remain -- none so critical as the need to do all we can to ensure the long-term growth of our economy. In 1993, we made a bold departure from the arrangements of the past. We opened a new chapter in fiscal responsibility, with a strategy of economic growth based on reducing the deficit, investing in education and job training, and opening the world to trade in American products and services.

Yesterday, we took historic action to eliminate our deficit and ensure our nation's long-term economic growth when I signed into law the first balanced budget in nearly three decades. This is a balanced budget that honors our values. It includes the largest increase in college aid

since the GI Bill, and the largest increase in children's health since the original passage of Medicaid in 1965.

The right steps we have taken in our fiscal policy have strengthened our economy and led to an even lower deficit than we projected. In this, the 4th year of our 5-year economic plan, we now expect the deficit to drop to \$37 billion. Yet, without the bipartisan balanced budget plan we just passed, my budget officials estimate the deficit would rise to \$50 to \$100 billion for years to come. With our bipartisan balanced budget plan, however, we now expect to not only reach balance by the year 2002, but to have a surplus of over \$20 billion. This is great news.

But, we still have big challenges and tough decisions ahead to keep our economy growing. To meet those challenges, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, and Americans from all walks of life, must summon the same will and spirit of cooperation that led to the balanced budget. We have a lot of work to do in the fall.

First, if we expect to keep our economy strong and growing into the 21st century we must continue to invest in the education and training of our people and continue our push for high standards and tests to make sure our students, schools and teachers are measuring up.

Second, we must tackle the tough issue of entitlement reform. We have to make the tough choices to strengthen and protect Social Security and Medicare -- the two most important social service innovations of the 20th century. This is not only a matter of fiscal responsibility, it is a matter of honoring the duty we owe our parents and the next generation. The balanced budget bill I signed yesterday sets up a bipartisan commission to reform Medicare. This fall, I will appoint the members of this commission and they will get to work. We will also tackle other issues to strengthen families, including exploring ways to improve child care in America and continuing our efforts to reduce the use of tobacco, especially among our children.

Third, we will grow our economy and create good jobs by continuing to open foreign markets to American goods and services through tough trade agreements. We must continue to reach out to the more than 95 percent of the world's consumers who live beyond our borders. That is why I will ask the Congress to give me "fast track" authority to negotiate new trade agreements that will extend free and fair trade to keep our economy growing.

Fourth, it is obvious that we cannot fulfill our obligations to future generations unless we deal responsibly with the challenge of global climate change. Growing our economy need not -- and must not -- contradict our commitment to protecting our environment. When the nations of the world meet in Kyoto in December, the United States must commit to realistic and binding limits on our emissions of greenhouse gases. The science demands that we act. We owe it to our children.

Finally, let me say that in my State of the Union Address I said that one of our most critical pieces of unfinished business was campaign finance reform. When Congress returns

from its vacation, Senators McCain and Feingold have made clear that they will bring campaign finance reform legislation to the floor of the Senate. This will be the time of testing for reform. The special interests and their allies have killed reform year after year, but this year, with the eyes of America on the Senate floor – with my strong support – and with the strong support of the American people, I am determined that we will prevail.

All these challenges will require tough decisions and bipartisan cooperation. The balanced budget agreement and our other achievements show us that when it comes to doing the critical work of preparing our nation for the next century, we can rise above our differences, find common ground and do what is right for America. We have hard work ahead of us. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.

I will be happy to take your questions.

Should we get his copy now to make changes?

In these past months, we have seen how the politics of the vital center can work to make progress on many of our most difficult problems. We brought this country together to act. We ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention – a landmark treaty that will protect our soldiers and our citizens from the threat of poison gas. We reached agreement in Madrid to open the doors of NATO to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, while creating a stronger partnership with Russia and Ukraine to build a Europe that is undivided, democratic and at peace.

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The balanced budget now gives us the opportunity to take this country the next step in meeting the new challenges of the 21st century - - to deal with the long range problems of educational standards, entitlement reform, campaign finance reform, expanding trade, and recognizing global warming.

This agreement shows what we can do when we all work together to find common ground in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation. We must carry this same spirit into the fall for the hard work we have ahead of us.

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Next paragraph should have more message:

We have put our fiscal house in order. But this is not an ending point, but a marker in our journey to overcome the broader and more long-range challenges that we face as we enter the 21st Century. Using the same spirit of cooperation that led to the balanced budget, we must work together this fall to bring the American people together around a new set of goals:

First, we must lift up our educational system to make it the best in the world and provide the kind of opportunities our young people need by...

...Second... SOCIAL SERVICE INNOVATIONS????

Third, we must meet the challenge of opening new markets to our goods in the global economy by...

Last paragraph:
Possibly:

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*campaign
finance
reform*

repairing our political

~~a beginning only a platform for us to tackle and long range challenges we face can only be a start, not an end, made substantial progress, but we still have new challenges to face progress – putting our fiscal house in order. As we have worked to provide opportunity but demand responsibility by putting our deficits behind us, investing in our people and~~

~~We have not let inaction~~

Paragraph 3

After opportunities of this new time...kill next sentence a s downer and put: We must make sure that our people, our government, and our institutions are ready for that new time – that we have build a government not for yesterday, but for tomorrow – a government that will help all of our people to have the tools that they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

Begin next paragraph about vital center, not bi-partisanship: In these last few months, we have seen how the politics of the vital center can work to make progress on many of our most difficult problems. Would have brought this country together to act. We ratified the...

Next paragraph should be Yesterday, not the The big accomplishments paragraph.

Big accomplishments is too selfserving.

Then begin:

Working with bipartisan support, we have worked to prepare our nation for the 21st Century, meeting the challenges of putting our fiscal house in order to strengthen our economy. In 1993...

Then the next paragraph on the deficit should highlight the news:

With the steps we have taken over the last four years to reduce our deficit and strengthen our economy, I am pleased to announce today that we now expect the deficit to drop in this year [is that correct – it is unclear which year] to \$37 billion. This means that the balanced budget plan signed yesterday is now projected to yield a surplus of \$20 billion by 2002. But without that plan, my budget experts say that the deficit would rise to \$50 to \$100 billion. So we are on the course to a smaller deficit this year and even a projected surplus by 2002.

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Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Inc.

805 15th Street tenth floor NW Washington, DC 20005

Telephone (202) 842-0500 Fax (202) 289-0916

To: Terry Edmonds

From: Matt Catapano

Date: _____

Fax Number: 456 2530

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1 Page to follow

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PRESS CONFERENCE OPENING STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
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To: Terry
From: Tony
Small Berger
Picos

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important
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act, too

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Schedule for Presidential Press Conference

August 6, 1997

GENERAL STATEMENT

10:00 - 10:15am

Vice President
Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Sylvia Mathews
Michael McCurry
Rahm Emanuel
Doug Sosnik
Ann Lewis
(speechwriter)

LIKELY QUESTIONS

10:15 - 11:45 am

Vice President
Erskine Bowles
John Podesta
Sylvia Mathews
Michael McCurry
Rahm Emanuel
Doug Sosnik
Ann Lewis

BUDGET/ D.C. PLAN/ HEALTHCARE

11:45am - 12:00pm

Gene Sperling
Frank Raines
Chris Jennings
Barry Toiv

DOMESTIC ISSUES

12:00 - 12:15pm

Bruce Reed
Bruce Lindsey
Joe Lockhart

FOREIGN POLICY/FAST TRACK

12:15 - 12:45pm

Sandy Berger
Mack McLarty
Ann Luzzatto
Joe Lockhart - Weld

COUNSEL'S OFFICE

12:45- 1:20pm

Charles Ruff
Cheryl Mills
Lanny Breuer
Lanny Davis

REVIEW

1:20 - 1:30 pm

QUICK RUN THROUGH

1:30 - 1:45 pm

QUESTIONS (for press conference prep)

Legacy

1. There are many critics of the balanced budget deal you reached with Congress, including Mr. Gephardt the leader of your party in the House. How confident are you that the bills you signed yesterday will be part of your enduring legacy in the history books?

Line Item

2. The Joint tax committee has identified 79 items in the tax bill that are subject to the line item veto. For example, one of these provisions provides a special break for New England hard cider makers. Since you have strongly supported the line item veto and now that your staff has reviewed these 79 items, will you use this new power to eliminate special interest tax breaks?

Follow-up

Speaker Gingrich and other Republicans have made it clear that any exercise of the line item veto will violate the historic budget agreement. Do you believe the budget agreement precludes you from using the line item veto?

UPS

3. UPS says 5-7 percent of our GNP goes through their company. You intervened during the baseball strike and American Airlines, why won't you intervene now and try to settle this strike?

Follow-up

Does your reluctance to intervene have anything to do with the large campaign contributions from the Teamsters union?

Fast Track

4. Many analysts believe the fast track legislation you plan to send to the Hill closely approximates the Archer bill. Are you confident that a majority of Democrats will support this bill and, more generally, don't you risk tearing your party apart with legislative fights like this one?

Follow-up

Will you seek final action on fast track before you depart for your Latin America trip in mid-October?

Entitlement

5. Some say the hard choices on the budget will come when you and Congress address the issue of long-term entitlement reform. Can there be a bipartisan solution to the long-term problems facing Social Security and Medicare and next year before the congressional elections?

Backloading

6. This budget avoids hard choices on reducing spending until after your successor is in office. Are you confident that the choices needed to balance the budget will remain in place after you leave office in the year 2001?

Budget Cuts

7. Please identify 2 or 3 ways Americans will really see and feel the cuts in programs that you signed yesterday as part of a balanced budget strategy for the remainder of your term? Who will lose out?

Tobacco

8. When will you receive and act on the recommendations from Secretary Shalala and Bruce Reed on their review of the tobacco settlement?

Follow-up

Besides FDA jurisdiction, what areas such as penalties against the companies for failing to meet youth tobacco use targets do you now consider shortcomings in the proposal settlement?

Race

9. Will you apologize to Americans of African descent for the legacy of slavery and, if yes, will you consider reparations for their suffering?

Follow-up

Not much has been heard since your San Diego speech -- what is the status of your efforts to carry this dialogue to mainstream (white) America?

D.C.

10. Will you meet with Delegate Norton? What is your view of the perceived erosion of home rule?

Weld

11. Given the importance of our bilateral relationship with Mexico, how long will you leave vacant a post you consider vital to our future relations?

Follow-up

What efforts are you, Secretary Albright and others making specifically to advance this nomination?

Follow-up

Will you consider a recess appointment?

UFOs

12. Was it right for the government to lie to the American people about top secret intelligence flights when questions arose about UFOs?

Jewell

13. Do you share Attorney General Reno's regret about the ordeal suffered by alleged suspect Richard Jewell in Atlanta Olympic bombing?

Bowles

14. Has he told you when he's leaving?

Movies

15. Give us your reaction to "Air Force One" and "Contact." And do you share concerns expressed by Counsel Ruff?

Chelsea

16. What plans are you and Mrs. Clinton making for her departure? Are you going to Parents Day at Stanford?

Vacation

17. Dick Morris says he polled on what vacation activities like camping, hiking, and golf would portray you in the most favorable light? Is that true? What do your polls tell you about the political viability of a vacation at Martha's Vineyard?

Reading

18. Many news organizations are reporting on the most popular books Americans are taking with them on vacations this summer. What books are you taking to the beach?

Foreign Policy

1. China -- October visit by Zemin
2. Bosnia -- U.S. commitment
3. How worried are you that we face domestic threats of terrorism, especially in light of the apprehension in New York City of suspects alleged to have plotted subway bombings?
4. India 50th Anniversary
5. Latin American arms sales
6. Mideast/Albright speech

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PRESS CONFERENCE OPENING STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 6, 1997

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Strengthening families child care - propose measures to reduce smoking tobacco
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*OMB - FY 97 deficit
\$37 billion
w/o deal 100
budget surplus - 2002*

line item veto - sit - want line

Wal - tobacco EO

Fri - Diabetes

Medicare Fraud - Mon - Statement

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Michael - something to
 start with from DOT

DRAFT

Steve

With deepest sympathy, I join with the American people in expressing our condolences for the victims of this terrible tragedy and for their families. *plane crash in Guam. I want connect the* With the *initial reports of surviving* *hundreds* *and U.S. military* *personnel* *who were* *on this rescue* *a rescue effort* passengers, we also pray for all those undertaking what is no doubt a very difficult search and rescue effort under extreme circumstances.

The National Transportation Safety Board will lead the investigation of this accident, with technical assistance and personnel from the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies as needed.

- Guam -

~~10/10/10~~ The U.S. military has brought all of its capabilities on Guam to bear.

Medical Teams to Korea
Investigation Team
Search Teams

from very beginning
flying doctors in
* ~~drop~~

703-695-0825

Navy's Air Force ^{military} personnel provided heroic service from the early moments of the crash, providing disaster relief on the scene, pulling victims from the wreckage, and providing emergency medical ~~assistance~~. care.

~~Navy's~~ #

DRAFT

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We have hard work ahead of us - roll up sleeves -

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7-1-11



Laura K. Capps
08/05/97 06:36:06 PM

Record Type: Record

To: James T. Edmonds/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: 3 part strategy

I've told you many times about the strategy we put in place in 1993. First, cut interest rates by reducing the deficit. Second, invest in education and training so all our people can reap the rewards of growth. And third, embrace the global economy and boost exports by tearing down foreign barriers to American products.